

2015 Point-in-Time Homeless Count Report

Sacramento Steps Forward (SSF) presents the final report for the 2015 Sacramento County & Incorporated Cities Point-in-Time Homeless Count. The Count, required by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is conducted every other year to assist local agencies with understanding the size, demographics, and needs of the individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the community, tracking the total number of homeless persons, the type of living situation, and subpopulation characteristics. The Count consisted of two distinct components: a sheltered count of persons living in emergency shelters and transitional housing and an unsheltered count and survey of persons living in places not meant for human habitation. For the unsheltered count, over 300 community volunteers, along with service providers and members of law enforcement, participated in the effort. For 2015, the Count also included expanded efforts to count the number of unsheltered transition age youth and families experiencing homelessness.

*On a single night
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approximately
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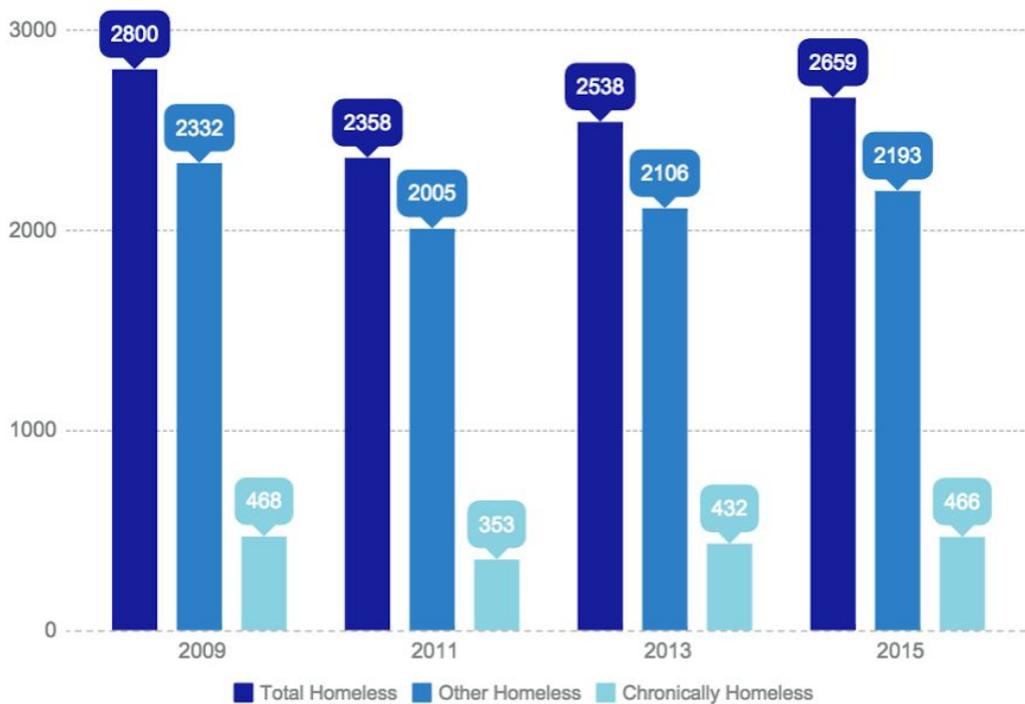
The Population of Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Sacramento Remains Relatively Stable

On a single night at the end of January 2015 in Sacramento County, approximately 2,650 individuals experienced homelessness. This compares with 2,538 individuals counted in 2013, and represents a modest increase of 4.7 percent. The number of individuals that will experience homelessness over the course of a year can be estimated based on Point-In-Time Count data, and, for 2015, Sacramento's annualized count is 5,218 persons.

Overall Population Trends

The chart below represent the distribution of individuals experiencing homelessness as identified by the Point-in-Time Counts for the past six years and includes the total number of homeless persons as well as the subset of the homeless population experiencing “chronic homelessness.” HUD has defined chronic homelessness as an individual or family with a disabling condition that has been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. Examining both total and chronic homelessness trends over the full six-year period, reductions occurred between 2009 and 2011, followed by incremental increases in subsequent counts. Between 2009 and 2015, total homelessness decreased by 5.0% and chronic homelessness was essentially unchanged, decreasing by less than 0.5%. Most recently, between 2013 and 2015, total homelessness increased by 4.8% and chronic homelessness increased by 7.9%.

2015 Sacramento Countywide PIT Count



The relationship between Sacramento’s total population and the homeless population remained essentially the same from 2013 to 2015, with 0.17% of the total population being homeless in 2013 (2,538/1,463,149) compared to 0.18% in 2015 (2,659/1,482,026). The proportion of the population experiencing homelessness relative to the overall population of Sacramento County is equivalent to the national average.

Subpopulation Changes

The table below presents Point-In-Time Count subpopulation characteristics from 2009 to 2015 and calculates the percentage change between the two most recent Counts (2013 and 2015). Particularly noteworthy differences between 2013 and 2015 include a 7.9% increase in chronically homeless individuals, a 20.6% increase in unsheltered single adults, a 4.4% decrease in homeless families, and decreases of 14.2% and 44.3% in severe mental illness and chronic substance abuse respectively.

Characteristic	2009	2011	2013	2015	% change 2013 - 2015
Sheltered	1606	1421	1752	1711	-2.3%
Unsheltered	1194	955	786	948	20.6%
Chronically Homeless Individuals	468	353	432	466	7.9%
Chronically Homeless Families*	-	-	3	13	333.3%
Persons in Chronically Homeless Families*	-	-	8	36	350.0%
Homeless Families	185	203	249	238	-4.4%
Persons in Homeless Families	543	604	801	697	-13.0%
Veterans	426	297	302	313	3.6%
Adults with Serious Mental Illness	753	619	677	581	-14.2%
Chronic Substance Abuse	1345	967	993	553	-44.3%
Persons with HIV/AIDS	60	50	39	37	-5.1%
Victims of Domestic Violence	699	516	504	335	-33.5%
Transition Age Youth (18-24) in Households**	-	-	85	51	-40.0%
Unaccompanied Transition Age Youth (18-24) **	-	-	41	240	485.4%

* Prior to January 2011, the definition of chronic homelessness applied only to single adults. CH families were not counted in the 2009 or 2011 PIT. ** Prior to the 2013 PIT, CoCs did not report data based on age.

The 20.6% increase in unsheltered adults (an increase of 138 persons) is affected in part by the enhanced efforts of Sacramento Steps Forward and its partners to better count transition age youth living on the streets. Specifically, a count night strategy that employed youth themselves (along with youth services providers) in areas identified as having the highest concentrations of unsheltered young adults, resulted in the counting of nearly 150 more transition age youth than in the 2013 unsheltered count. Continuum of Care partner agency, Wind Youth Services, reports that this figure is consistent with its monthly count of 150 unique individuals who visit its drop-in center.

The 44.3% decrease in chronic substance abuse can be attributed to HUD-required changes to how the questions related to this subpopulation characteristic were asked in the survey. While in previous counts, respondents were only asked to report on alcohol and drug use, in 2015, they were also asked if these behaviors interfered with the ability to maintain work or housing. A similar number of people reported alcohol and drug use in 2015 compared to 2013, but much fewer felt this behavior impacted employment or housing stability (a full explanation of this issue is provided in the Technical Report).

Sacramento Is Creating Systemic Change to Solve Homelessness By 2020

While the 2015 Count does not demonstrate a large change in the overall homeless population, since the start of this year, Sacramento Steps Forward stepped up its efforts, working with local and national partners to develop a robust system to reduce homelessness by the end of the decade.

SSF is focused on implementing a systemic, data-driven response to homelessness that significantly reduces the total number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Sacramento. The goal of this effort is to reach “functional zero.” Recognizing that individuals and families will still occasionally become homeless, functional zero means that, for each subpopulation that encounters homelessness (individual, family, transition age youth, etc.), our system will respond quickly with access to emergency or permanent housing and supportive services that meet the individual’s or family’s needs, that the period of homelessness is brief, and that individuals and

families do not become homeless again.

Since January 2015, SSF has been collaborating with the City of Sacramento, Sacramento County, the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) and the Continuum of Care to adopt tools, build data systems, and refine policies to improve access to housing and supportive services by improving the ease with which clients can navigate the system and access resources.

Ending Veteran and Chronic Homelessness by 2016

SSF and the CoC are participating in the national Zero: 2016 campaign and the Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness. Zero: 2016 is led by Community Solutions - a national nonprofit experienced in rapidly housing chronically homeless individuals and families. To achieve the campaign's goals of ending veteran homelessness by the close of 2015 and chronic homelessness by the end of 2016, SSF and its partners have housed over 200 chronically homeless individuals and nearly 250 veterans since beginning the campaign in January 2015. Ongoing efforts continue to demonstrate improved outcomes for Sacramento's most vulnerable homeless veterans and chronically homeless individuals.



Prioritizing the highest needs will save lives and reduce reliance on additional resources ensuring the most vulnerable receive the resources they need.

Common Cents - Outreach and Coordinated Entry

In partnership with the City of Sacramento, Sutter Health, Dignity Health, Wells Fargo, the California Endowment, TLCS, Loaves & Fishes, and several business improvement districts, Sacramento Steps Forward has launched an integrated approach to outreach that enables homeless services navigators to locate and serve unsheltered veterans and chronically homeless individuals, linking them with access to services and providing emergency housing for the most

vulnerable, and, ultimately, connecting these individuals to permanent housing. This pilot project uses a common assessment tool to determine each individual’s vulnerability and prioritizes housing and services based on their needs. By prioritizing based on highest need, Sacramento will save lives and reduce reliance on additional community resources. Soon, this approach will be applied system-wide to serve every subpopulation, ensuring that throughout our community, the most vulnerable are receiving the resources they need.

Performance Measurement

SSF has hired Focus Strategies, a well-regarded homelessness system research and consulting firm, to assist with program performance analysis across the entire Continuum of Care. Over time, CoC partners will review and assess program performance, and develop and implement best practices, leading to improved outcomes for programs and the overall system.

Increased System Capacity

Furthermore, the CoC will bring over 150 additional units of permanent supportive housing online starting in July, including 130 new units gained as a result of a successful bid for federal bonus project money announced in late January. These additional units will provide increased capacity to the CoC to address chronic homelessness among transition age youth, adults, families, and seniors.

Sacramento Steps Forward would like to acknowledge the following partners for their assistance with the 2015 Point-in-Time Homeless Count:

- Sacramento Housing & Redevelopment Agency
- County of Sacramento
- City of Sacramento
- Focus Strategies
- Hands on Sacramento & our Community Volunteers
- Homeless Service Provider Community
- Next Move Sacramento

- Wind Youth Services
- Tubman House
- Mary House
- Sacramento Police Department
- Citrus Heights Police Department
- Elk Grove Police Department
- Folsom Police Department
- Rancho Cordova Police Department
- Sacramento County Sheriff's Department
- City of Sacramento Park Rangers
- County of Sacramento Regional Parks Rangers